

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-5 (Cancelled).

6. (Currently Amended) The intramedullary nail of claim 16 ~~[[1]]~~, wherein a ratio of the cross sectional dimensions of the respective proximal and distal fastener receiving areas at the axes of said holes relative to the cross sectional dimension of said central section is at least about 1.3:1.

Claims 7-8 (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) The intramedullary nail of claim 16 ~~[[1]]~~ further comprising cross fasteners respectively received in the holes, each cross fastener having a threaded distal tip, a threaded proximal shank and an unthreaded portion between the threaded distal tip and the threaded proximal shank, said unthreaded portion adapted to be received in one of said holes and said threaded distal tip and proximal shank adapted to engage bone matter on opposite sides of said one hole.

10. (Original) A method of fixing a fracture in a long bone of a patient having an intramedullary canal, the method comprising:

providing a elongate member having a solid central section having a cross sectional dimension and having proximal and distal fastener receiving areas of increased cross sectional

dimension relative to the cross sectional dimension of the central section, the fastener receiving areas each having at least one hole extending transverse to a longitudinal axis of the elongate member,

inserting the elongate member into the intramedullary canal through an insertion point and across the fracture, and

inserting cross fasteners through each of said holes and into said bone on opposite sides of said elongate member to fix the fracture of the long bone against rotational and lengthening movements.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein at least the central section of the elongate member is curved in a sagittal plane of the patient, and further comprising:

prior to the inserting step, laterally bending the proximal fastener receiving area of said elongate member at an acute angle out of the sagittal plane of the patient.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

bending the distal fastener receiving area of said elongate member at an acute angle out of the sagittal plane of the patient.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

laterally bending the proximal fastener receiving area to conform to a right femur of the patient.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

laterally bending the proximal fastener receiving area to conform to a left femur of the patient.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the long bone in a femur and the insertion point is a point on the greater trochanter lateral of the piriformis fossa, and the method further comprises:

laterally bending the proximal fastener receiving area to conform to the proximal femur of the patient and to present the proximal tip of the elongate member at the insertion point for access and removal after healing of the fracture.

16. (Original) An intramedullary nailing system for fixing a fracture in a long bone of a patient having an intramedullary canal, the system comprising:

an elongate member having a longitudinal axis, a proximal end section, a distal end section and a solid central section extending between said proximal and distal end sections, said proximal and distal end sections respectively including proximal and distal fastener receiving areas of greater cross-sectional dimensions than said central section, said fastener receiving areas each having at least one hole extending transverse to the longitudinal axis for receiving a cross fastener adapted to secure to the bone on opposite sides of said elongate member, said proximal and distal end sections thereby providing rigid anchoring locations relative to said central section, and said central section providing elastic flexibility to promote healing of the fracture, and

a bending device having jaw structure configured to hold the elongate member and bend at least one of the proximal and distal end sections at angle relative to said central section.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein said being device further comprises a pair of manually operable handles coupled with said jaw structure and adapted to be squeezed together to move the jaw structure.

Claims 18 - 20 (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) The intramedullary nail of claim 16 [[1]], wherein said one of said fastener receiving areas included in said distal end section has at least two holes extending transverse to the longitudinal axis, said at least two holes each being normal to the longitudinal axis and one another.

22. (Currently Amended) The intramedullary nail of claim 16 [[1]], wherein the nail is made from titanium and the nail has a generally cylindrical shape with a diameter of the solid central section of between about 4 and 7 millimeters.

23. (Currently Amended) The intramedullary nail of claim 16 [[1]], wherein the central section has a solid cross section with a substantially constant diameter.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, which further includes providing

another hole extending normal to the longitudinal axis of the elongate member and the at least one hole for at least one of the fastener receiving areas.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the central section has a solid cross section with a substantially constant diameter.

Claims 26-30. (Canceled).